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Fergus Malone's Death Recalls Old Times.

When George Wright Originated the Famous "Trap Ball."

Origin of the Cincinnati Reds and Their Great Game With the Haymakers of Troy.

The death of Fergus Malone, who caught for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1871, recalls old-time baseball days. Harry Wright was raised in Hoboken, N. J., and lived next door to Charlie Duke, who is now employed in the City Treasurer's office. When Wright made his first trip to the Pacific coast, in 1869, Duke came with him. Duke was also a personal friend of George Wright, the greatest ball player that ever lived. This reference to Wright may sound extravagant, but I played against him once in an amateur game at Nahant, Mass., without knowing his identity when play commenced. He was at second, although his regular position, when in the professional ranks,

was at short. After seeing him handle a few ground balls, flies and throws from the catcher, my eyes commenced to open, and I remarked to a bystander:

"There is the most perfect action I have ever seen on a ball field."

It was George Wright. The man laughed and replied:

"Well, I guess you are correct; that is George Wright."

Harry Wright was a brother of George. At the present time George Wright is the head of the famous sporting goods firm of Wright & Ditson. They have a large store on Washington street, Boston.

The famous "trap ball" was originated by George Wright as far back as 1870, although some critics have been led to believe that Fred Pfeffer, formerly of the old Chicago White Stockings, evolved the play. It was in a game between the Cincinnati and Atlantic clubs

in Brooklyn. The score was a tie in the eighth inning, men on first and second and none out. A short fly was hit to left field. The runners held their bases, but to the surprise of all, Wright let the ball fall to the ground without even trying to catch it. The crowd looked on in amazement, not comprehending what he intended to do. Then Wright picked up the ball and tossed it to third base. This retired the man who was on second by a force. From third the ball was thrown to second, putting out the man who was on first, also by force. When the spectators caught the idea, and saw that Wright had got a double play, he was cheered to the echo.

Nine Champion Teams.

Wright played professional baseball for eleven years, and was a member of nine champion teams. He retired from the diamond at the close of the season in 1879, and went into business in Boston. Mike Kelly has been given credit

for being the quickest thinker that ever stood on a ball field, but it is doubtful if he were the equal, to say nothing of being the peer, of George Wright. When Harry Wright went West to

coach the team that subsequently became known as the Cincinnati Red Stockings, he was hired to teach the game of cricket. Wright never lost his interest in cricket. Up to the time that I came to Seattle I had a cricket ball that he gave me.

It was because the boys did not take kindly to cricket that the Cincinnati Red Stockings took form. Wright was the first pitcher of that club. The rivals of the Red Stockings were the Buckeyes. It was about an even break in 1867 and 1868 between these two teams, but in 1869 the Reds strengthened, and went through the entire season without defeat. This is the most remarkable record in the history of professional baseball.

Haymakers of Troy. The nearest that the Reds came to losing a game was when they played the Haymakers of Troy, N. Y., on their (the Reds) own grounds. The score was 17 to 17.

In this connection, it is interesting to old-time fans to know that the managing director of the Haymakers at that time was Albert L. Hotchkiss, who died recently at Seaback, Wash. Mrs. Walter Macfarlane of Aberdeen, Wash., and Mrs. H. J. Collins of Seattle are daughters of the late Mr. Hotchkiss.

The Red Stockings in 1869 were composed of the following players, as near as I can recall: Dug Allison, catcher; Asa Brainerd, pitcher; Charles Gould,

Turf War to Begin Next Week

Corrigan's Track at New Orleans to Open Its Doors Feb. 11—Bitter Fight Is Expected.

The first clash in the turf war between the Western Jockey club and the newly organized American Jockey club will take place at New Orleans, where, on February 11, the Panama track, in which Ed Corrigan is interested, will open its gates in opposition to the Crescent City Jockey club, one of the tracks controlled by the W. J. C. Following this Kentucky Louisville and Kansas City will continue the battle by racing on dates other than those allocated to them by the Western Jockey club.

Louisville will undoubtedly open on the last day of the Memphis meeting and thereby ignore Nashville, a track which is on the fence failing to see which side will be the softest to fall upon. Nothing really definite as to the length of the meetings of these tracks nor the dates upon which they will be run can be learned until next Saturday, when the American Jockey club will hold its second meeting and arrange its schedule.

Ed Corrigan practically admits that Nashville will be ignored and that it will be compelled to run in opposition to Louisville, which will run its meeting in two sections. Corrigan predicts a successful meeting at New Orleans, and yesterday arranged to send fourteen of his horses to that city. Those selected to wear the green and white sash are: Alma Dufour, Royal Legion, Marsh Redon, Drexel, Barnes, Dunne, Keno, and seven unnamed two-year-olds. The horses will be in charge of Trainer Frank Kelly, who, until five weeks ago, was with Eugene Leigh in France.

first base: Sweasy, second base: Fred Waterman; third base: George Wright, shortstop: Andy Leonard, left field: Harry Wright, center field, change pitcher and captain: Cal McVey, right field.

In 1879 the Cincinnati Red Stockings disbanded, and Wright went to Boston. He lost the pennant in 1871 on a technicality to the Philadelphia Athletics, but he won the coveted flag for Boston in 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875.

The following year the Chicago club, known as the White Stockings, with Al Spalding at the head, got Wright's best players, and beat him out of the pennant. The quartette that deserted Boston for Chicago were: Al Spalding, catcher; Jim White, second baseman; Ross Barnes and First Baseman Cal McVey.

Wright soon got his team to working and won the pennant for Boston in 1877 and 1878. Soon after this Wright went to the Providence club, and later he took the Philadelphia team, and brought it well up in the race from a hopeless position. Poor health caused him to retire in 1892. The National league then made him chief of its staff of umpires, a position which he held until his death, October 3, 1895.

Portland Trades Pitcher for Catcher

Cardinals Exchange Catcher McLean for Thielman, Who Lost Only 35 Games in Two Seasons.

Thielman's Record.

Year.	Club.	Games.	Won.	Lost.
1903	Portland	18	13	5
1904	Portland	15	15	2

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 5.—Catcher "Larry" McLean will not be a member of the Cardinals the coming season. This is to be regretted, as the "big mitt" man with the half-past 6 o'clock build, is one of the best young Windpaddists in the profession, and in losing him Manager Nichols parts with a quantity he needs.

However, Mike Grady's great binging and Jack Warner's steady catching have, in the opinion of Nichols, made the doing away of McLean a possibility, as "Larry" has just figured in a trade with the Portland team of the Pacific Coast league.

For McLean Nichols gets Pitcher Thielman. He isn't the old Red Leg. This Thielman has just had two brilliant seasons with Portland. He has held his own with such twirling might as "Doc" Newton, the former big leaguer, who is to be a Yankee in the spring; Jay Hughes, Buchanan, the new Brownie; "Crazy" Schmidt, Joe Corbett and a score or more boxmen of like importance.

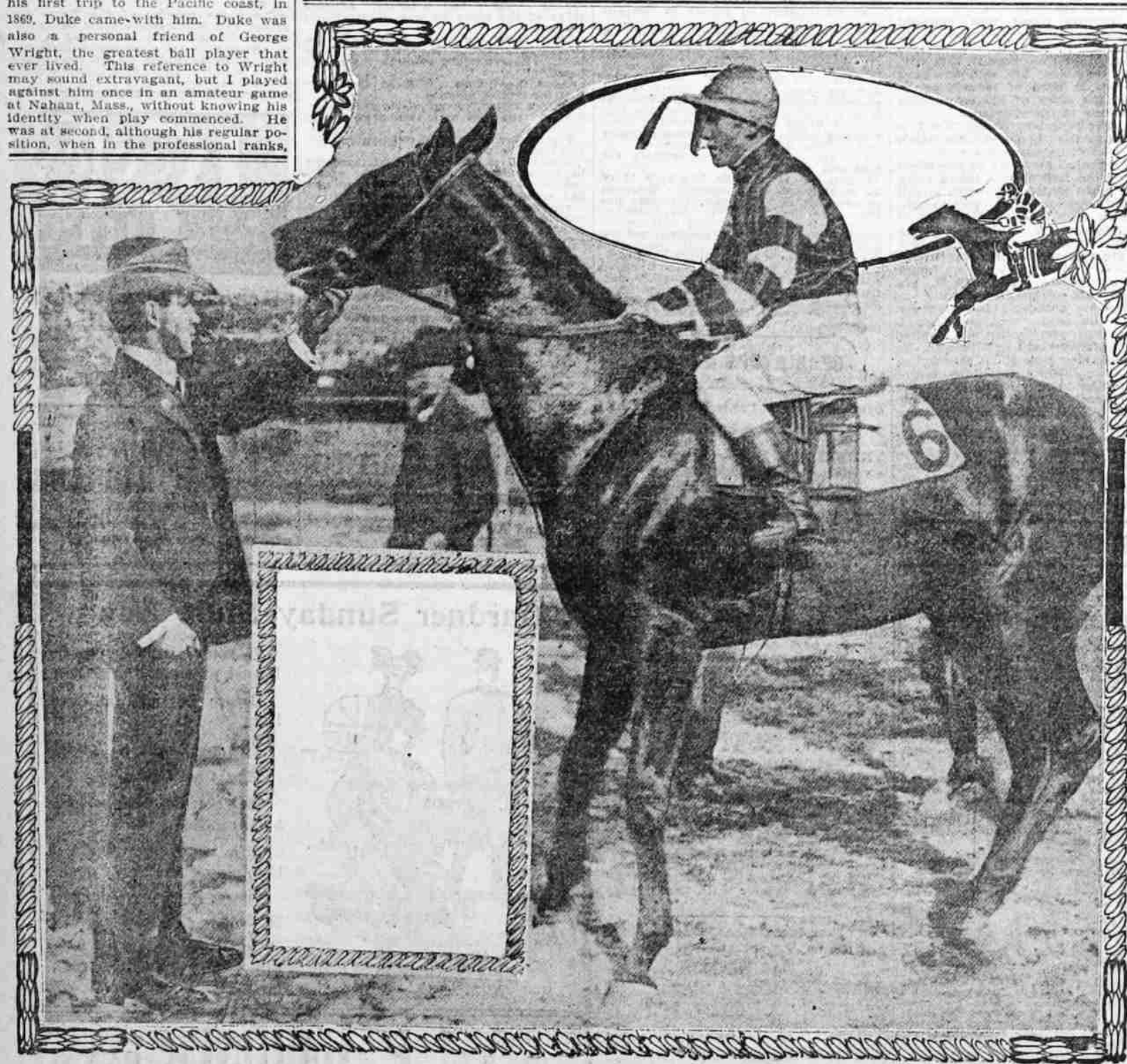
The Cardinals all but landed Thielman a year ago. But for the doing of some juggling by the far Westerner he would have come to town last spring. However, just when Thielman looked safely bagged something happened and he never made the trip this way.

Perhaps it is a good thing that he didn't, as the extra campaign's work he has had on the coast has done him a world of good, and every critic in the Pacific Coast league circuit declares that he is plenty speedy enough for big league service, where twelve months ago there were many pencil-pubers out that way who were skeptical as to the young athlete's success.

McLean was tossed in by the Chicago Nationals when Frank Robinson made the deal with Jim Hart whereby "Gee Jack" Taylor came to St. Louis and Mordecai Brown and Jack O'Neill went to Chicago. McLean never had a chance to prove his worth with the Cardinals.

McLean ran up a mark of 94 in twenty-four games behind the bat. McLean has been wintering in St. Louis. He's been running a bowling alley at Grand and Herbert, and has done enough business to enable him to live easy. He is counting upon paying a visit to his home in New England before going to Portland.

Anyhow, he'll be in the Far West in time to see the Battling Nelson-Young Corbett battle.



HARRY PAYNE WHITNEY AND HIS CRACK THREE-YEAR-OLD ARTFUL, WITH WHICH HE HOPES AND EXPECTS TO ANNEX HIS SHARE OF THE GREAT TURF PRIZES DURING THE COMING SEASON. THE BOY MOUNTED ON ARTFUL IS HILDEBRAND, THE PREMIER JOCKEY OF THE SEASON OF 1905, WHO PROBABLY WILL SPORT THE WHITNEY COLORS

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Courtesy demands that we mention no names in a newspaper, but if you come to my office, I can furnish some valuable information with the proofs so conclusive that you will not regard them as selfish arguments.

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